

November 13, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
House Majority Leader
H-107 Capitol Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
House Majority Whip
H-329 Cannon
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert, Leader Boehner, and Representative Blunt:

We the undersigned organizations are in support of passage this year, in the session scheduled for later this year, of the proposed legislation on the trade benefit programs for the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Haiti, and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). This legislation, H.R. 6142, was introduced by the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman William Thomas, on September 21, 2006, and was initially placed on the suspension calendar in the House of Representatives for consideration on September 26.

We believe this legislation has strong bi-partisan support, but consideration of this critically important measure was, unfortunately, postponed until the November session. Without passage of this legislation this year, hundreds of thousands of jobs for the most vulnerable workers in many of the world's most vulnerable economies could be lost.

There is simply no additional time to spare on moving this legislation forward in this Congress, as business decisions are being made every day in anticipation of

whether or not this legislation will become law in 2006. We very much support H.R. 6142, and are prepared to offer whatever assistance we can to help in the effort to see it enacted this year.

We look forward to your leadership in moving this package forward as quickly as possible this year.

Sincerely,

Africa Coalition for Trade (ACT)
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
Bread for the World
Caribbean Central American Action
CINTAS Corporation
Citigroup
DATA
Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)
Food Products Association
Gap Inc.
Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA)
Island Apparel
Levi Strauss & Co.
Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA)
National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
Oxfam America
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Minority Whip